

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02983

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, WB, PGOV

SUBJECT: BERLIN SCIENCE CENTER

REFS: (A) BONN 2099; (B) USBER 2331, DEC. 23, 1974;

(C) BONN 18262, NOV. 22, 1974

1. ALLIED REPS HAVE NOW ASKED FRG REP IN BONN GROUP FOR RATIONALE OF PROPOSED CHANGE IN EQUITY ARRANGEMENTS OF THE BERLIN SCIENCE CENTER. FRG REP (HENZE) AND SENAT REP (MEICHSNER) RESPONDED THAT PRESENT SYSTEM OF HAVING PROMINENT FRG AND BERLIN PUBLIC FIGURES SHOWN AS EQUITY-HOLDERS WAS RATHER TROUBLESOME BECAUSE OF CONSTANT CHANGES OVER. IDEA WAS TO ECHANGE LEGAL PERSONS (BUND AND SENAT) FOR ACTUAL PERSONS.

2. HENZE EMPHASIZED THAT THE CHANGE IN EQUITY-HOLDING WOULD NOT CHANGE METHOD OF FINANCING THE CENTER (FRG SUBSIDIES). HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE STAFF OF 110 PERSONS WERE NOT AND WOULD NOT BECOME GOVERNMENT
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EMPLOYEES. HENZE SAID ONLY PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE

WOULD BE TO SUBSTITUTE BUND AND SENAT FOR PRESENT
EQUITY-HOLDERS IN PUBLIC REGISTRY.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT TRIPARTITE MEETING, ALLIED REPS
AGREED THAT PROPOSED FRG CHANGE WAS INNOCUOUS AND
UNOBJECTIONABLE. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU)
SAID IT WAS THE LEAST WHICH BONN COULD BE EXPECTED TO DO
WITH RESPECT TO FEDERAL INTEREST IN BERLIN.

4. COMMENT: FRG/SENAT PLANS IN SCIENCE CENTER CASE
ARE SIMILAR TO REORGANIZATION IN 1974 OF HERZ INSTITUTE
IN BERLIN (REFS B & C). ALLIES SAW HERZ CHANGES AS
LEGITIMATE AND NON-TROUBLING. THIS VIEW WAS CONFIRMED
BY ABSENCE OF ANY SOVIET COMMENT ON NEW HERZ ARRANGE-
MENTS, WHICH WERE INAUGURATED ON DEC. 13, 1974 IN
PRESENCE OF FRG RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTER
MATTHOEFER AND ALLIED OFFICIALS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: ASSUMING THAT USBER SEES NO
PROBLEMS WITH PLAN, WE REQUEST AUTHORITY TO GIVE
FRG OUR APPROVAL OF THEIR INTENTIONS AS OUTLINED ABOVE
AND IN REFTEL A. AN APPROVAL WOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO
FRG ON TRIPARTITE BASIS AFTER LONDON AND PARIS HAVE
NOTIFIED BRITISH AND FRENCH HERE OF THEIR ASSENT.
HILLENBRAND

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